

HOUSE No. 154

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to the humane treatment of disabled persons..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16 of Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006
2 official edition, is hereby amended by adding at the thereof the following text:-

3 Disabled citizens, as all other citizens of the Commonwealth, are entitled to equal
4 protection under Article CXIV of the Massachusetts Constitution, which prohibits discrimination
5 on the basis of handicap, and the full protection of the laws of the Commonwealth, which
6 prohibit the use of corporal punishment on school children and prisoners.

7 No program funded, operated, licensed, or approved by any agency or subdivision of the
8 Commonwealth shall administer to any person with a physical or mental disability any procedure
9 which causes obvious signs of physical pain, including, but not limited to, hitting, pinching, and
10 electric shock for the purposes of changing the behavior of the person.

11 No such program may employ any form of physical contact or punishment that is
12 otherwise prohibited by law, or would be prohibited if used on a non-disabled person.

- 13 No such program may employ any procedure which denies a person with a physical or
- 14 mental disability adequate sleep, food, shelter, bedding or bathroom facilities.